

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

Judith A. Monroe, M.D.
State Health Commissioner




Indiana State Department of Health

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DATE: March 31, 2009

TO: All Local Health Departments
Attn: Chief Food Specialist

FROM: 
A. Scott Gilliam, MBA, CP-FS
Manager, Food Protection Program

SUBJECT: Torres Hillsdale Country expanded -Cheese Recall

Suggested Action: Class Unidentified : Torres Hillsdale Country Cheese recall due to potential Listeria contamination; Recommend notification to establishments that may carry this product via phone, fax or e-mail.

From the information provided by FDA, the product has been distributed in Indiana. The recalled Asadero and Oaxaca cheese products were distributed to retail stores and delis in 10 lb balls, 16- and 12 oz plastic packages, sold under the name "Aguas Calientes". Product was also sold in 6 lb blocks shrink-wrapped in clear plastic, under the name "El Jalisciense". Packaging may also include a label with the name "Torres Hillsdale Country Cheese LLC". Please notify this office at 317-233-7360 if any recalled product is found.

Torres Hillsdale Country Cheese LLC Expands the Recall of Asadero and Oaxaca Cheeses due to Possible Listeria Contamination

Contact:
Salvador Torres, Manager
517-368-5990

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- March 23, 2009 -- Torres Hillsdale Country Cheese of Reading, Michigan is expanding the recall of Asadero and Oaxaca soft Mexican-style cheeses due to potential Listeria contamination.

Consumption of food contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* can cause Listeriosis, an uncommon but potentially fatal disease. Listeriosis can cause high fever, severe headache, neck stiffness and nausea. Listeriosis can also cause miscarriages and stillbirths. The very young, the pregnant, the elderly and persons with compromised immune systems are the most susceptible to infection. People experiencing these problems should seek immediate medical attention.

Products were distributed to the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Alabama.

A routine sample of Asadero cheese, taken by an inspector from the Michigan Department of Agriculture's Food and Dairy Division on February 23, 2009, was subsequently tested by the Michigan Department of Agriculture Laboratory and discovered to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*.

The recalled Asadero and Oaxaca cheese products were distributed to retail stores and delis in 10 lb balls, 16- and 12 oz plastic packages, sold under the name "Aguas Calientes". Product was also sold in 6 lb blocks shrink-wrapped in clear plastic, under the name "El Jalisciense". Packaging may also include a label with the name "Torres Hillsdale Country Cheese LLC".

The recall encompasses all production dates between August 1, 2008 (expiration date 10/29/2008) and February 27, 2009 (expiration date 5/10/2009).

No illnesses have been reported to date in connection with the recalled products.

Consumers and retailers are urged to return all unused recalled product to the manufacturer.

Consumers with questions may contact Salvador Torres, Manager, Torres Hillsdale Country Cheese LLC at 517-368-5990.

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